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At special prices to make room for our new spring stock. We have three handsome upright pianos—Oak Case, \$350, reduced to \$250. Walnut Case, \$375, reduced to \$275. Mahogany Case, \$400, reduced to \$300. \$325. Bunt Case, \$450, reduced to \$400. A grand piano and cover and a six year's guarantee go with each piano. TERMS: \$10 down and \$10 a month. Kindly call and examine our stock. Other instruments at corresponding low prices.

John F. Ellis & Co.

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Great \$7.98 Suit Sale at KING'S PALACE

Winter Clothing all this week at just 40c on the dollar. NEW YORK CLOTHING HOUSE, 311 Seventh Street.

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From 11.

Instructions to a limited class only morning.

A DINNER TO THE CABINET

Served in the Private Dining-Room of the White House.

The Ladies of the Cabinet Received Informally Yesterday Afternoon—The Charity Concert.

The President and Mrs. McKinley entertained the Cabinet at dinner last evening. The Red Parlor and the Blue Room were similarly decorated with palms, redazaleas, ferns and garlands of asparagus plumosus. The table was laid in the private dining-room, which was elaborately decorated for the occasion.

The windows were screened with tawny palms and red azaleas, and the upper shelf of the splendid mahogany sideboard was clustered in pale-pink Japanese primroses and unadorned ferns. A glittering array of silver and cut glass filled the lower sections.

The table was laid with covers for twenty-two, and was very artistically decorated with tulips. The centerpiece of red tulips was oval in shape, and was fringed with scarlet passion flowers. At either end were wicker baskets filled with tulips of the palest pink, verging into white. Six gilt candelabra were used, two of eight branches each, two of six branches and two of four branches, all being filled with waxen tapers, which burned under flower shades of delicate pink.

At each corner was placed two cut glass goblets for water and mineral water, to which all being served. The cut glass canisters held apolinaris and other mineral waters.

Dinner was set for half-past seven, and the guests began to arrive at a quarter past seven.

The President and Mrs. McKinley received the guests in the Blue Room. Mrs. McKinley was looking extremely well and was becomingly gowned in orchid pink pompadour silk, with trimmings of violet velvet. The corsage was ornamented with point lace in supple effect, and a large cluster of violets was fastened at her left shoulder. The gown, which was made in train, had a panel effect on one side of violet velvet, and a narrow plaiting of the same edged the hem of her gown.

Her hair was simply parted in the middle, and diamond side combs held the soft, gray curls in place. Her necklace and brooch were of diamonds, and a pair of magnificent solitaire earrings were worn.

The guests were: The Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Gage, the Secretary of War and Mrs. Alger, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General and Mrs. Gary, the Secretary of the Navy and Miss Long, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, Col. and Mrs. Herrick, of Cleveland, O.; Mrs. McCallum, Mrs. Saxton, Miss Boardman, Miss Alger, Secretary and Mrs. Porter.

Mrs. Alger, who went in to dinner with the President, was gowned in white satin with a bodice of emerald green velvet studded with rhinestones and trimmed with rose point. Diagonally across the front of the skirt was a fall of the lace which was finished with rows of white satin and green velvet.

Mrs. Gage wore a very handsome gown of ashen of roses satin, embroidered in silver, and finished about the corsage with puffs of pink mousseline de soie.

Mrs. Gary was gowned in an exquisite creation of pink and pale green pompadour satin.

Miss Long wore pink satin and point lace, with bodice of jeweled tulle.

Mrs. Herrick was in white satin with giraffe of mauve velvet and a fringed sash of crepe de chine of the same tint.

Mrs. McCallum, pale pink satin with rose point.

Mrs. Saxton wore a gown of black moire velvet in train, and trimmed with frills of point lace.

Mrs. Alger was daintily gowned in white moire velvet, with the bodice finished with frills of tulle and garlanded with pink roses.

Miss Boardman wore pink moire velvet and pearl embroidered tulle.

Mrs. Porter looked extremely handsome in a rich blue brocade with trimmings of handsome lace.

After dinner Miss Ella Russell, of Cleveland, Ohio, sang for the guests. An informal musicale followed the dinner, at which the following artists contributed numbers: Mrs. Russell, soprano; Mr. Franz Weidner, violinist; and Mr. Herbert Van Vleet, pianist.

Mrs. Hobart and the ladies of the Cabinet were at home informally yesterday. Mrs. Hobart received in her private parlor at the Arlington. She was gowned in pale-pink moire velvet, with trimmings of jet, and a collar of cerise taffeta.

Mrs. Doe was gowned in black brocade and lace. The house did not show many changes, except in regard to the pictures, which, of course, Mrs. Lamont had sent to her New York home. In their places were some very beautiful oil paintings by famous artists; notable among them being some by Rosa Bonheur.

Among those calling were: Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Radcliffe, Mrs. Elkins, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Inglish, Mrs. Fleming, and other well-known people.

Mrs. Gage received a number of callers at her home, on Connecticut avenue. Mrs. Gage was gowned in black brocade moire with bodice veiled in jetted net.

Miss Long, who was assisted by Mrs. Bassett, of Boston, and Mrs. McIntire, was at home informally at the Portland, and received a large number of callers.

Miss Gary received her friends in her private apartments at the Portland. She and her sister, Mrs. Eugene Levering, of Baltimore, assisting her. Miss Gary wore rose colored pompadour silk, and the friends who called were not only greeted with the most charming cordiality, but with the perfume of the quantities of American Beauties which adorned the parlors. Mrs. Gary did not receive, but arrived on a late train from Baltimore, to attend the Cabinet dinner.

Mrs. Sherman is still in Mansfield, Ohio, where she has gone to superintend the closing of her summer home, as she expects to spend this summer elsewhere.

Mrs. Jeannette Thurler, of New York, who has been staying at the Shoreham and who visited Washington in the interests of the National Conservatory of Music, has returned to her home.

The charity concert given yesterday was a great success. Mrs. Gardner, one of Boston's society women, and a well-known singer, delighted all with her rich, sympathetic voice. She was enthusiastically applauded and received some very handsome floral tributes. Among them

were some handsome bouquets of American Beauty and Eldorado roses. Mrs. Gardner is extremely handsome and looked especially well in her gown of yellow moire velvet, with trimmings of jet about the décolleté corsage.

Mrs. Westinghouse had with her in her box Mrs. and Miss Radcliffe, Miss Mages, Mrs. Kitzmiller, Miss Paxton and Mr. Saxton, Dr. and Mrs. McDonald had in theirs for the concert Miss Carson and Mr. Carson, Mrs. McMillan and Miss McMillan also had friends with them, and Mrs. Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Alward Johnson and Miss Maida Gorman occupied a box, as did Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Buff.

Among the many well-known people in the audience were Mrs. Wallace Radcliffe, Mrs. McKnight Moses, Mrs. Eldridge Smith, Seldford Bey, Mrs. Elkins, Mrs. E. M. Gaddison, Mrs. Tenney Ross, and many others. The patronesses were Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Elkins, Mrs. J. L. Wilson, Mrs. John W. Foster, Mrs. Somers, Mrs. Munn, Mrs. Aspley, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Radcliffe and Mrs. Phillips.

Mr. N. J. Krugenhelm, secretary of the Swedish legation, and Mrs. Krugenhelm will entertain at dinner on Saturday evening, March 27.

Gen. Doe will leave for Milwaukee in a few days.

Miss Gary will go to Baltimore the last of the week, where she will probably remain until the second week in April.

Count Vinet left yesterday for a visit to New York.

Mr. Von Goetzer and Mr. Von Reichenow, of the German embassy, will leave for New York a day or two.

Mrs. Ewing Winslow will give a Shakespearean reading this afternoon at 3 o'clock at the residence of Mrs. Halliday, No. 1814 N. street northwest. The reading will be from the comedy, "Much Ado About Nothing."

MR. SIBLEY'S FUNERAL.

The Services Conducted by Rev.

Lucien Clark of Foundry Church.

The funeral of the late William J. Sibley, whose sudden death occurred Tuesday morning, took place at Foundry M. E. Church, at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

A large number of persons were present. Mr. Sibley was a member of Foundry Church for sixty-four years. Rev. Lucien Clark, D. D., the pastor, officiated, assisted by former pastors, Rev. Oliver A. Brown and Dr. H. R. Taylor, also by Dr. Landon, and Dr. A. A. Ames.

Father Glynn, of St. Patrick's, and a cousin of the deceased, was also present.

Miss Elizabeth Whaley sang a solo.

The active pallbearers were Messrs. Dorsey, Brown, G. W. F. Swartzell, James L. Ewin, Richard J. Ryan, H. F. Isherwood, and Melville Ladd.

The honorary pallbearers were Messrs. Zephaniah Jones, Matthew G. Emery, Hiram Price, Dr. R. B. Clark, G. J. Seufferle, James E. Fitch, B. F. Grey, E. P. Simpson, and B. H. Stinemetz.

Interment was made at Rock Creek Cemetery.

AN ALUMNAE BANQUET.

Members of the Mount Holyoke College

Association Dine Together.

The Mount Holyoke Alumnae Association gave its annual banquet last night in the parlors of the First Congregational Church. The former students met promptly at 8:30 o'clock and at the conclusion of their feast adjourned to the east parlor, where several pleasant hours were spent in speeches and papers made and read in honor of the institution founded by Mary Lyon in South Hadley, Massachusetts, sixty years ago.

By a unanimous vote the present board of officers were continued in their positions for the ensuing year.

Rev. A. Hazen, D. D., gave an interesting account of Mary Lyon and the early days of the college. Mrs. Frederick Douglass, a former student, read a paper on "Present and Future American Citizenship," and Mrs. Draper, of Kendall Green, gave an attractive description of the work of the Revolutionary times.

The applications for office recorded at the Treasury Department yesterday are as follows: Auditor of the Navy Department—E. E. Stout, Paul Ind., and Arthur Stabler, Sandy Springs, Md.

Deputy Auditor of War Department—T. J. Donovan and J. L. Stanley, both of the District.

Collector of Customs—L. M. Hopstad, of Sitka, Alaska; at Sitka: L. A. Sheldon, of Los Angeles, Cal.; at Los Angeles: R. E. Hopkins, of Brunswick, Ga.; at New Orleans: J. H. Galt, of New Orleans; at New Orleans: L. McNamee, of Philadelphia, Pa.; at Chicago: J. H. Raymond, of Bath, Me.; at Bath: Andrew Harris, of Olneyville, Mich.; at Port Huron, Mich.: Joseph H. Scull, of Crony, N. C.; at Beaufort: I. D. Hart, of Beaufort, N. C.; at Charleston: J. C. Hannon, of Ocala, Fla.; at El Paso.

Surveyor of Customs—R. P. McCreary, of St. Louis, Mo.; at St. Louis: T. D. Hyatt, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; at New York: R. M. Johnson, of Philadelphia, Pa.; at Philadelphia.

Natural Officer of Customs—Andrew Jacobs, of New York, at New York.

Appraiser of Customs—B. W. Jackson, of Cleveland, Ohio; at Cleveland: H. G. Williams, of Cincinnati, at Cincinnati.

Collector of Internal Revenue—J. C. Lettewick, of Fayette, Ala.; both for the office at Birmingham: M. F. Farnoff, of Logansport, Ind.; at Lawrenceburg, Ind.: W. T. Deboe, of Mosier, Ky.; at Owensboro, Ky.: A. L. Miller, of New York, at New York; W. M. Taggart, of Philadelphia, at Philadelphia; G. E. Peice, of Myrtlewood, Pa.; at Baltimore, Md.: A. O. Cooley, of Frederickburg, Texas, at Austin, Texas; U. S. Marshall, of Port Worth, Texas, at Dallas, Texas; Webb Greene, of Mount Pleasant, Utah, at Helena, Montana.

Supervising Inspector of Steam Vessels—D. C. Carroll, of Pittsburgh, Pa., at Cincinnati.

There is already a good deal of speculation as to the successor of Judge Kimball, of the District police court, notwithstanding the fact that his term does not expire until next January. There is said to be a number of applications already filed, or to be filed, for the place, and there is likely to be lively competition. Judge Miller's term does not expire until some time during 1900.

The clerical force of the office of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General is getting ready for the reception of the new chief. It is understood that Col. Bristow is ready to take hold immediately upon confirmation of his nomination.

The position of horticulturist in the experiment station under the Agricultural Department will be filled within a day or two. The names of the three aspirants who made the highest averages in the recent examination, have been certified to the Secretary, and from these three he will probably make his selection.

Ordered to Produce Records.

Judge Hagner yesterday granted an order in the case of Helen V. Douglas against Lewis H. Douglas, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish records showing the registration in the name of Frederick Douglas of \$10,000 bonds; also showing the sale and transfer of the bonds, and likewise to furnish certified copies of the correspondence, affidavits and bonds of indemnity, if any, affecting the parties to the suit in lieu of bonds lost or destroyed by fire.

Changes at West Point.

Capt. Otto L. Hein, First Cavalry, has been selected as commandant of cadets at West Point, with the temporary rank of lieutenant colonel, to relieve Capt. S. M. Mills, Fifth Artillery, number of other changes among the junior officers of the Military Academy will also be announced in a day or two.

CANDIDATES TO COMPETE

Method of Choosing the Bureau of Republics' Director.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Proceedings Put Under the Seal of Secrecy—New Treasury Officials to Be Sworn in Today. Col. Bristow Not Yet in Charge at Postoffice Department.

The executive committee of the Bureau of American Republics held a meeting at the State Department yesterday, at 2 o'clock, for the final adjustment of the differences over the recent appointment of a director for the bureau, which appointment was subsequently withdrawn.

The meeting was strictly a private one, and each member present was pledged not to divulge what transpired.

There were present Secretary Sherman, Dr. Martin Garcia, Mero, minister of the Argentine Republic; Minister Mendonca of Brazil; Minister Romero, of Mexico, and Minister Andrade, of Venezuela.

The first business attended to was the acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Clinton Furber, the present director, and the members then took up the question of selecting his successor. It was decided that a competitive examination should be had at an early date, and that the board of examiners should consist of five members, three to be selected by the southern republics and two by the United States.

It is understood that the list of questions to be submitted to be of a character to test only the applicant's general educational qualifications, without regard to his knowledge of the languages. Mr. Joseph Smith and five other candidates are said to be already listed for examination.

Three names will be certified by the board to the committee, from which to choose the director, the three being those who make the best averages, in the order of first, second and third. It is confidently predicted that Mr. Smith, the recent appointee, will yet be the successful man.

Mr. Walter S. Faison, the solicitor of the State Department, is understood to have been selected as one of the two to represent Secretary Sherman in the board of examiners.

There is no abatement in the interest which was aroused several days ago by the announcement, upon apparently good authority, that an Assistant Secretary of War would be immediately nominated by the President. The rumor to the effect that Gen. N. M. Curtis would be the man was emphatic, and when twenty-four hours elapsed without anything definite, people began to wonder over it.

Gen. Curtis has called several times at the Department since his name was first made prominent in connection with the appointment. He was there near the hour of 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, but nothing could be ascertained of his purpose in calling.

It is interesting to note in this connection that Col. Oils, of California, is still of the opinion that he, and not Gen. Curtis, will be chosen.

First C. Squire, the new private secretary to the Secretary of War, has not yet taken charge of his office, and Mr. V. L. Mason, who has been temporarily filling the place, is still in charge. Mr. Mason has been appointed confidential clerk in the office.

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NEXT WEEK'S PLAYS.

After a couple of months at the Garden Theater, New York, Henry Miller brings his "Heartsease" direct to the Columbia next week. The play is by J. I. C. Clarke and Charles Klein, the authors of "Dr. Belgrave." The story of the play treats of the love of Eric Temple for Margaret, daughter of Lord Neville. Temple is a musician, and has a rival in the person of Sir Geoffrey Pountrel, an amateur musician. Barbara, the young wife of Lord Neville, is in love with Temple, and learns that he is deeply in debt to Pountrel, a rich linen dealer. She invites Pountrel to her house and secretly pays Eric's debt. Sir Geoffrey acquiesces in this, and other favors she has shown to Eric, in the society papers, and Lord Neville's jealousy is aroused. He turns Eric from his house in disgrace, and then Eric discovers the loss of the manuscript of a grand opera he has written. This loss, the disgrace and the loss of his love, combine to throw Eric into a brain fever, from which he recovers to learn that Margaret is about to wed Sir Geoffrey. Eric meets Margaret in the lobby of the Grand Opera Theater, and the progress of an opera written by Sir Geoffrey. Eric thinks that he is listening to his own music, and this belief grows to a certainty as the opera proceeds. He meets Pountrel face to face, and accuses him of the theft of the opera. In the next act of the opera Margaret recognizes the strains of a song which Eric had dictated to her, and she also accuses Sir Geoffrey of the theft, and leaves the theater to follow Eric. She is in turn followed by Sir Geoffrey, who forces a duel on Eric. By this time Lord Neville has convinced his husband that Eric has suffered an injustice, and that it is Margaret whom he loves. Eric obtains his rights through Capt. Jack O'Hara, a young Irish officer, who is in love with Eric's sister.

"An Enemy to the King" is the new play which Mr. E. L. Sothern will present at the Lafayette next week. E. L. Sothern has made an unquestionable success with "An Enemy to the King." The pictures themselves and their colonies are said to be charming. We will hear the clash of rapier, and will be worn from front to back without a cessation of interest. Through it all is woven the thread of the purest love romance. He makes of Erant de Launay a fine type of manly, courageous, honorable gentleman. His work is distinguished by a ready skill and intelligence which denote the dramatic artist. Through the whole play there run alternate touches of pathos and dramatic force, grim comedy and airy perlage. Four scenes illustrate the story. A list of the company is worth reading, from the fact that at the present time Mr. Sothern's company is perhaps the best stock organization in the city. Miss Mary Hampton will play the part of a young French girl, Juliette Varion. Among the other persons in the cast are: Arthur R. Lawrence, Kyrle Elynn, Morton Selten, Rowland Buckstone, George E. Bryant, John J. Collins, Ernest Tanager, Daniel Jarrett, Owen Fawcett, Sam Sothern, G. F. Pickett, Norman Parr, Violet Rand, Kate Pattison-Selton, Albert Galatin and Rebecca Warren.

Another success that is made by Thomas Q. Seabrooke in his portrayal of the character of John Fullerton, the speculator, in George H. Broadhurst's comedy, "The Speculator." From all sections of the country come flattering reports of the success attained by Mr. Seabrooke in his new departure, and the critics have been unanimous in their praise of the organization in its entirety. Mr. Seabrooke is supported by a cast of well-known and favorite artists, among whom are the following: Lowrie, Loraine Breux, Laura Almondo and the Messrs. Horace, Mitchell, A. H. Sturges, Roy Fairchild, Fred W. Peters, C. W. Macdonald, Wallace Bruce, Charles Denison and others. The stage production will be adequate in every sense, and it is expected that the reproduction of the wheel pit in the Chicago board of trade will cause a sensation among the theater people of this city. Mr. Seabrooke and his admirable organization will appear at the National next week. The production will be under the management of Duncan B. Harrison.

Commencing with Monday, the Academy patrons will have Augustus Thomas in "Mizoura," which enjoys the reputation of being a most distinctly American play in plot, in scenery and character. The piece is a most beautiful work of its kind. The hero is a man who is afraid of nobody but the sea, he is a friend, the blacksmith. The play does not lack exciting interest, but probably the greatest of its charms lies in a certain rural sweetness which hangs about the love interest, and its quaint characteristics. Everything is appropriate, and the phrases and speeches are as much in illustration of character as they are of advancement of the story. There is great beauty in the climaxes of the several acts, one of the most exquisite and touching being that at the close of the second act, when Jim, rejected by